BY-LAWS

OF

King Solomon Lodge, No. 56,

A.·. F.·. & A.·. M.·.

JACKSON, N. C.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Charter and Communication.

SECTION 1. The Master shall have charge of the Charter, and it shall be in the Lodge, whenever opened.

SEC. 2. The regular Communications of this Lodge shall be held on the first Saturday in each month and on St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist day.

SEC. 3. The Lodge shall hold no Communication on Sunday except on Funeral occasions.

SEC. 4. The Master, or in his absence, the Wardens by seniority may call special communications of the Lodge.

ARTICLE II.

Election and appointment of officers - their duties.

SECTION 1. The elective officers of this Lodge, to-wit: Master, Wardens, Treasurer, and Secretary, shall be chosen by ballot at the regular communication immediately preceding the anniversary of St. John the Baptist (24th June) day, the Master by two-thirds, and the remaining officers by a majority, of the members present.

SEC. 2. All the officers shall be installed on St. John the Baptist day, or as soon thereafter as practicable.

SEC. 3. The Master, immediately after his installation, shall appoint the Deacons, Marshal, Stewards and Tiler.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the Master, on the decease of a member or sojourning brother, entitled to such honors, to ascertain if Masonic honors would be agreeable, and to take measures accordingly.

SEC. 5. The Master shall read, or cause to be read, in open Lodge, as soon after they may be received as practicable, the annual proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 6. The Treasurer shall not pay out any moneys, except upon the warrant of the Worshipful Master, properly attested by

the Secretary; and shall furnish the Lodge with an annual statement of his receipts and disbursements.

SEC. 7. The Secretary shall transcribe on the book of records, the minutes of each regular and special communication; shall keep a book with the By-Laws neatly written therein for the signatures of members; shall properly endorse and file all papers necessary to be preserved; shall pay over to the Treasurer all moneys received by him, on or before the day of each regular communication, shall pay out no moneys in his hands by virtue of his office; shall receive no due bill or other evidence of indebtedness; and shall have his books in the Lodge, at each regular communication, with every entry properly made up to that date.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the Tiler to keep the furniture clean and everything in order for each communication of the Lodge. The implements, jewels, clothing, and other property of the Lodge, with the keys of the several apartments, wardrobes, etc., shall be considered in his custody, and he shall, for the time being, be held responsible for their safe-keeping; and, at the expiration of his term of office, shall deliver over the same to his successor; he shall keep a visitor's register, in which he shall require each visitor to register his name and the Lodge of which he is a member. It shall also be his duty to deliver to the brethren, to whom they are addressed, all summons issued by the Lodge, and to make due return of such direction, or return the same to the Secretary, with a statement in writing, setting forth the reasons for his failure to do so. His services shall be rewarded as the Lodge may, from time to time, determine.

ARTICLE III.

Committees.

SECTION 1. There shall be three standing committees, to-wit: A committee of charity; a committee of finance, and a committee of reference.

SEC. 2. The Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, shall be a committee on charity, who shall attend to all applications for relief, see that all true, worthy brothers, their widows and orphans, in sickness or distress, are aided and assisted, and report their action to the Lodge: *Provided*, when they may deem it necessary, they may draw from the funds of the Lodge, to the amount of ten dollars, without action of the Lodge.

SEC. 3. The committee of finauce shall consist of three members, to be appointed by the Master, annually, at the regular Com-

munication next succeeding the installation of officers, or as soon thereafter as practicable. This committee shall, from time to time, examine the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, and make a written report thereon, and on the financial affairs of the Lodge, at the end of each year, or oftener, if required, and shall carefully investigate every claim against the Lodge before the payment of the same shall be ordered by the Lodge.

SEC. 4. The committee of reference shall consist of three discreet and judicious members, to be appointed by the Master, who shall consider and decide all matters of controversy, or dispute, arising at any time among the brethren, which may be referred to them. Either party dissatisfied with the decision of the committee, may appeal to the Lodge.

ARTICLE IV.

Order of Business.

SECTION 1. No business shall be transacted in any other than a Master's Lodge, excepting only such as pertains especially to the work and lectures of the E. A., or F. C. degrees, or the investigation of charges against an E. A., or F. C.

SEC. 2. No business shall be transacted at a special communication, other than that for which it was called; nor shall such communication receive petitions, or ballot, except upon the advancement of candidates; nor engage in any other business affecting the general interests of the Craft.

SEC. 3. The order of business at a regular communication shall be:

1. Reading minutes of last regular, and all intervening communications.
2. Unfinished business.
3. Reports of committees on petitions for initiation and membership.
4. Balloting.
5. Reports of standing committees.
6. Reports of special committees.
7. Reception of petitions.
8. Communications.
9. Motions and resolutions.
10. Informal communications affecting the Craft.
11. Reading and approval of the minutes.

SEC. 4. The order of business may be changed, or temporarily dispensed with, by the Master, when pressing emergency may require it.

ARTICLE V.

Fees.

SECTION 1. The fees for degrees conferred in this Lodge shall be for each degree eight dollars, and shall invariably accompany the petition.

SEC. 2. The fee for membership shall be two dollars.

SEC. 3. The dues from members shall be two dollars per annum, to be paid quarterly.

ARTICLE VI.

Petitions for Degrees.

SECTION 1. A petition for the degrees of masonry shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, and in the following form:

To the Master, Wardens and Members of King Solomon Lodge, No. 56, A. F. & A. M.:

The petition of —— ——, respectfully showeth that he entertains a favorable opinion of your ancient institution, and desires to be made a member thereof If this, his petition, be granted, he will yield a cheerful obedience to the usages and customs of Masonry. His age is —— years; his vocation that of a ——, and his residence, ——.

Date, ——. (Signature,) —— —— .

Recommended by

—— ——

—— ——

SEC. 2. A petition for the degrees of masonry or membership shall be recommended by two or more members of the Lodge, and shall be placed in the hands of the Secretary, with the lawful fee.

SEC. 3. Every petition for the degrees of masonry or membership shall be referred to a committee of three members, who shall diligently investigate the character, standing, and qualifications of the applicant, and report to the Lodge at the first regular communication, thereafter, if practicable; and no petition shall otherwise be acted upon.

SEC. 4. On balloting for a candidate, one black ball shall reject without a question, except that a second ballot may be demanded to be satisfied of no mistake.

SEC. 5. The ballot shall be inspected by none, save the Master and Wardens, and no member shall make known what manner of ballot he cast.

SEC. 6. If the applicant be rejected, the fee shall be returned by the Secretary. If he be accepted, and negligently fail to offer himself for initiation within six months after his acceptance, or to make a satisfactory excuse for such neglect, the fee shall be forfeited to the charity fund, and the whole proceeding, in his case, shall be null and void.

SEC. 7. A petition, once rejected, shall not again be acted upon within the space of one year.

SEC. 8. The Lodge shall not entertain the petition for degrees, of a stranger, sojourner, or person having no fixed or permanent place of abode or residence; nor of one whose residence is nearer to some other Lodge, unless by written sanction of such Lodge, or of the Grand Lodge of the State from which he hails; nor shall the Lodge entertain a petition from an applicant, who has not resided within its jurisdiction for twelve months immediately preceding the date of his petition.

SEC. 9. A petition shall not be withdrawn after its reference to a committee.

SEC. 10. Before a candidate shall be prepared for initiation he shall answer satisfactorily the following interrogatories:

1. Do you declare upon your honor, before these witnesses, that unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry?

2. Do you further declare upon your honor, before these witnesses, that you are prompted to solicit the privileges of Masonry by a favorable opinion conceived of the Institution, a desire of knowledge, and a sincere wish of being serviceable to your fellow-creatures?

3. Do you further declare, upon your honor, before these witnesses, that you will cheerfully conform to all the ancient established usages and customs of the Fraternity?

4. Have you petitioned any other Lodge and been rejected by it?

ARTICLE VII.

Qualifications.

SECTION 1. Every applicant for the degrees of masonry must be free-born; and no individual physically so deformed, as to disable him from honestly acquiring the means of subsistence, or who may be incapacitated to become a useful member, shall be initiated.

ARTICLE VIII.

Application for Membership.

SECTION 1. A petition for membership shall be in writing, signed the applicant, and in the following form:

To the Master, Wardens and Brethren of King Solomon Lodge, No 56, A. F. & A. M.:

The petition of —— —— respectfully showetl. that he was lately a member of ——— Lodge, No. ———, at ———; and he now prays to be admitted a member of your Lodge. His age is ——— years; his vocation that of a ———, and his residence, ———.

(Signed,) ——— ———

Recommended by

——— ———

——— ———

SEC. 2. A pe'ition for membership shall be accompanied by the applicant's dimit, and up to and inclusive of the ballot, shall be subject to the same rules as a petitioner for the degrees of masonry. (See Article VI.)

ARTICLE IX.

Qualifications for Membership.

SECTION 1 None but worthy Master Masons, against whom no other Lodge has claims, shall be admitted to membership.

SEC. 2. Any resident Master Mason of good standing as a citizen, whose Lodge has become dormant, may be admitted to membership, upon such terms in other respects as other masons.

SEC. 3. No mason shall be a member, until he shall have subscribed the By-Laws.

ARTICLE X.

Dimits.

SECTION 1. A petition for a dimit shall be in writing, signed by the applicant, and in the following form:

To the Master, Wardens and Brethren of King Solomon Lodge, No. 56:

The undersigned respectfully prays to withdraw from the membership of your Lodge, and asks for a certificate to that effect. His motive for this request is ———.

SEC. 2. The foregoing petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Secretary of the payment of all dues by the applicant.

ARTICLE XI.

Non-affiliated Masons.

SECTION 1. A non-affiliated Mason shall not be permitted to visit the Lodge, or to join in procession; nor shall he be entitled to relief, or masonic assistance, or burial.

ARTICLE XII.

Recommendation for Dispensation.

SECTION 1. No petition for a dispensation for organizing a new Lodge, shall be recommended, until the proposed Master and Wardens have shown themselves, upon careful examination, in open Lodge, to be well skilled in the ritual and laws of Masonry.

ARTICLE XIII.

Charity Fund and Relief.

SECTION 1. Fees for initiation and advancement shall be held sacred for charitable or educational purposes, unless indispensable necessity should require their use for providing suitable accommodations, or necessary fixtures.

SEC. 2. Applications to the Lodge for charity, shall, in all cases, be made through a member of the Lodge, who shall previously qualify himself to furnish the Lodge with necessary information of the standing, character, condition, and circumstances of the applicant.

ARTICLE XIV.

Certificate of Membership, &c.

SECTION 1. Upon the death of any member of this Lodge it shall be the duty of the Secretary to furnish the widow or orphans of such deceased member a certificate, under the seal of the Lodge, of his membership, standing and death, without any application or charge therefor.

ARTICLE XV.

Offences.

SECTION 1. Offences occurring while the Lodge is at labor, shall be reported by the Senior Warden; and offences occurring while the Lodge is at refreshment, shall be reported by the Junior Warden; *provided*, that these officers may exercise a sound discretion in reporting trivial offences, which may be more prudently made the subject of private counsel and reprimand.

ARTICLE XVI.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Master shall put all questions distinctly; if a division be called for, he is to request those who voted in the affirmative to rise, and count them, then the negative, and shall declare the result.

2. All committees are to be appointed by the presiding officer, except as herein otherwise provided.

3. In case of a vote on any question, the majority of those present voting for or against, shall be necessary to a decision, except as otherwise provided; in case of a tie the presiding officer shall decide.

4. When a member is about to speak, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Worshipful Master.

5. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, shall transgress the rules of the Lodge, the Master, or any member may call him to order; he shall immediately take his seat and the member calling him to order shall state the point of order. The Master shall decide the question of order without debate, except that the member called to order may be allowed to explain. If the decision be in favor of the member, he shall be at liberty to proceed.

6. When two or more members rise at once, the Master shall name the one entitled to the floor.

7. No visitor shall address the Lodge without leave being first obtained, or he be called on by the Master.

8. When the Master is stating a question or addressing the Lodge, or when a member is speaking, no person shall enter, go out of, or cross the room, nor be permitted to enter into private discourse.

9. No motion for reconsideration shall be made, except by a member voting with the majority, and at the same meeting when the question shall have been decided.

10. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Master, and if in writing, read by the Secretary before debate.

11. Every motion shall be reduced to writing if a member desire it. In filling blanks, the largest sum or number, and the longest time, shall be first stated.

12. Any motion may be withdrawn by the mover, before decision and amendment.

13. No new motion or proposition shall be admitted while a question is pending before the Lodge.

14. No member shall speak more than twice on the same question, unless he obtain the permission of the Master.

15. Every member appointed on a committee must serve, unless, for reasons given, he be excused by the Master.

16. No member shall interrupt another, when speaking, except by permission of the Master, and the member then speaking.

17. No member shall engage in conversation, during the conferring of degrees, except it be necessary to facilitate the work.